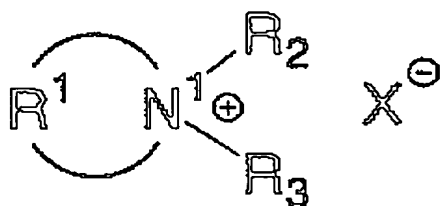


What is claimed is:

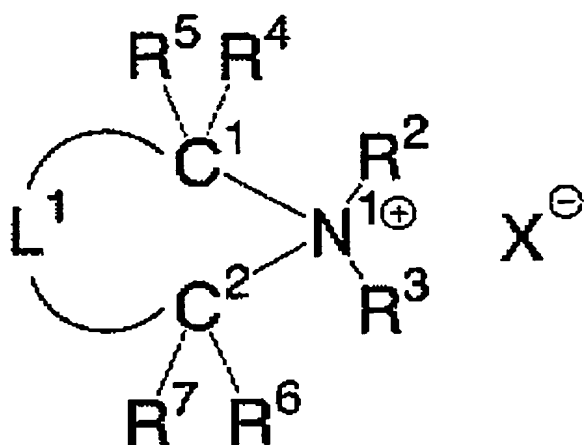
1. An image forming material comprising, on a substrate, an image forming layer which includes at least (A) a novolac type phenolic resin containing phenol as a structural unit, (B) a photo-thermal converting agent, and (C) a compound represented by the following general formula (1-1):



General formula (1-1)

wherein in general formula (1-1),  $R^1$  represents a residue which, together with  $N^1$ , forms a ring structure;  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  each independently represent an organic group and may combine with each other to form a ring structure; at least one of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  may combine with  $R^1$  to form a ring structure; and  $X^-$  represents a conjugate base of an organic acid or an inorganic acid.

2. An image forming material according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by general formula (1-1) is represented by the following general formula (1-1-a):



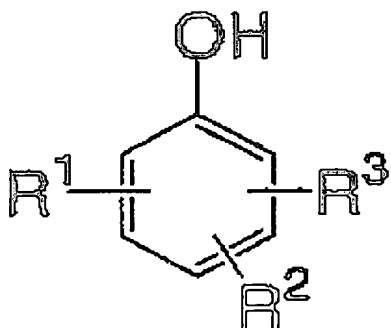
General formula (1-1-a)

wherein in general formula (1-1-a),  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  each independently represent an organic group and may combine with each other to form a ring structure;  $X^-$  represents a conjugate base of an organic acid or an inorganic acid;  $R^4$  through  $R^7$  each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent, may be the same as or different from one another, and may combine with one another to form a ring;  $R^4$  through  $R^7$  may each combine with  $L^1$ ,  $R^2$  or  $R^3$  to form a ring structure; when a bond between  $L^1$  and  $C^1$  or  $C^2$  is a double bond or a triple bond, some of  $R^4$  through  $R^7$  do/does not exist in accordance with the existence of the double bond or the triple bond;  $L^1$  represents a single bond or a divalent linkage group which, together with  $-C^1-N^1-C^2-$ , forms a ring structure;  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  may represent an identical atom or an identical substituent so that a bond between  $C^1$  and  $R^4$ , which is also  $R^5$ , becomes a double bond; and  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  may represent an identical atom or an identical substituent so that a bond

between C<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>6</sup>, which is also R<sup>7</sup>, becomes a double bond.

3. An image forming material according to claim 1, wherein a mass of the compound represented by general formula (1-1) is 50% or less of a mass of a total solids content in the image forming layer.

4. An image forming material according to claim 1, wherein the novolac type phenolic resin is a resin obtained by condensing phenol, a substituted phenol represented by the following general formula (I), and an aldehyde:



General formula (I)

wherein in general formula (I), R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or a halogen atom.

5. An image forming material according to claim 4, wherein a phenol content in monomers that constitute the novolac type phenolic resin is from 21 to 90% by mole.

6. An image forming material according to claim 4, wherein a weight average molecular weight of the novolac type phenolic resin is from 500 to 50000.

7. An image forming material according to claim 4, wherein a proportion of the novolac type phenolic resin to a total solids content in the image forming layer is from 0.1 to 20% by mass.

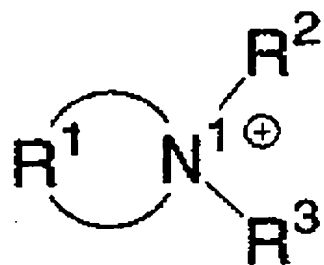
8. An image forming material comprising, on a substrate, an image forming layer which includes at least (A) a novolac type phenolic resin containing phenol as a structural unit, (B) a photo-thermal converting agent, and (C) an onium salt represented by the following general formula (1-2):

General formula (1-2)       $X^-M^+$

wherein, in general formula (1-2),  $X^-$  represents an anion including at least one substituent that has an alkali dissociative proton and  $M^+$  represents a counter cation selected from the group consisting of a sulfonium ion, an iodonium ion, an ammonium ion, a phosphonium ion, and an oxonium ion.

9. An image formation material according to claim 8, wherein  $M^+$  in general formula (1-2) is represented by the following general formula

(M-1)

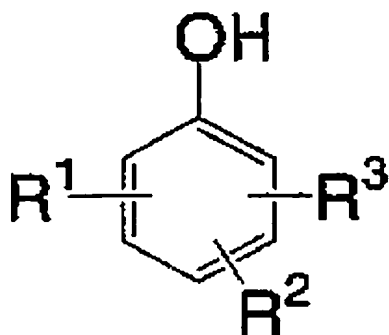


General formula (M-1)

wherein in general formula (M-1),  $R^1$  represents a residue which, together with  $N^1$ , forms a ring structure;  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  each independently represent an organic group and may combine with each other to form a ring structure; and at least one of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  may combine with  $R^1$  to form a ring structure.

10. An image forming material according to claim 8, wherein a mass of the compound represented by general formula (1-2) is 50% or less of a mass of a total solids content in the image forming layer.

11. An image forming material according to claim 8, wherein the novolac type phenolic resin is a resin obtained by condensing phenol, a substituted phenol represented by the following general formula (I), and an aldehyde:



General formula (I)

wherein in general formula (I),  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or a halogen atom.

12. An image forming material according to claim 11, wherein a phenol content in monomers that constitute the novolac type phenolic resin is from 21 to 90% by mole.

13. An image forming material according to claim 11, wherein a weight average molecular weight of the novolac type phenolic resin is from 500 to 50000.

14. An image forming material according to claim 11, wherein a proportion of the novolac type phenolic resin to a total solids content in the image forming layer is from 0.1 to 20% by mass.